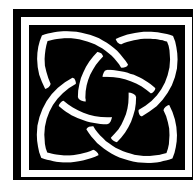




# Appleby Archaeology Newsletter



Volume 11 Issue 4: Winter 2008

## Winter Draws On

### AGM, Members Evening and Subscriptions

Our 11<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting will be held on January 13th. A copy of the Minutes from last year's meeting are attached together with the new Agenda. I'm sorry to have to remind you that subscriptions are also now due for 2009. Please use the enclosed form and either send payment to the Membership secretary or alternatively pay direct at the AGM.

### Website

If you're not sure about the address of the Membership secretary (it's on the renewal form, actually) you might care to look it up on the Group's new website. Yes, Appleby Archaeology has finally entered the 21<sup>st</sup> century and we are on the Internet. Our address is :

[applebyarchaeology.org.uk](http://applebyarchaeology.org.uk)

On the site you'll find all the usual information you might expect - details of the lecture programme and so on, but you might be surprised to find downloads of the papers for things like the "People and the Land" Conference papers and Martin Railton's reports on the Brackenber excavations as well. You can even get copies of the lecture reports that Phyllis sends to the Herald. The Committee hopes you'll find it useful.

### Stop Press : Brackenber dating

The jury has returned its verdict on

the dating of the Druidical Judgement Seat - but I'm afraid this newsletter declines to steal Martin Railton's moment of glory. If you want to hear the details I'm afraid you'll just have to come to the Members evening and hear his talk on this year's excavations!

In the meantime let me wish you

### A Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for 2009

Martin Joyce



*Remember last summer? Well the weather wasn't much better then either! Here, various experts unpeel the history of the Druidical Judgement Seat in the rain*

## LDNPA Conference (2008)

The 2008 LDNPA Conference was held once again in "The Theatre by the Lake" in Keswick and maintained its long-standing reputation for excellent value. We were entertained by both familiar speakers, such as Dr Angus Winchester and our own Martin Railton, and some new to the scene such as Dr Vicki Cummings.

The day started with an introduction by Eleanor Kinston who told us about the National Park Authority's Historical Environment Record. It's available free of charge to the general public at :

[ads.ahds.ac.uk](http://ads.ahds.ac.uk)

This is a database containing information on all the historic sites in the Lake District. I've had a chance to use it myself recently and was simply amazed by the amount of detail available. I think we may be hearing more of this in the future.

Angus and Martin then did a sort of double act with the former giving us general background about the way farming worked in the Lake District around the time of the Black Death, while Martin provided some hard archaeology gleaned from his work on the medieval vacancy (ie cow-shed) at Gatesgarth at the head of Buttermere.

Vicki Cummings talked on the

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## Recent Finds in Cumbria

In November we were pleased to welcome the return of Dot Boughton, Finds Liaison Officer (Lancashire and Cumbria), who brought the group up to date with her power point presentation on recent discoveries in our area.

She reminded the group of the role of the Portable Antiques Scheme (PAS) which is a voluntary scheme for the recording of archaeological artefacts found by members of the public, thereby promoting the recording of chance finds and increasing awareness of the importance of such finds for understanding our past. The scheme was established in 1997 for England and Wales and at present there are 36 Finds Liaison Officers.

Dot's main role is to record archaeological objects found by the public but she is active in promoting archaeology through displays, visiting schools and clubs where youngsters can handle artefacts and experience what it might have been like living in an earlier period. She has links with metal detecting

groups and individual detectorists and holds sessions on responsible metal detecting. When time permits she enjoys being involved in fieldwork.

75% of finds are likely to belong to the finder but there are those which are covered by the Treasure Act of 1996. This covers the finding of gold and silver items, or a group of coins that are at least three hundred years old and the finding of any group of two or more metallic objects, of any composition, of prehistoric date that come from the same find spot.



Silver coin of Prince Henry of Northumberland, found at Croglin

There have been over 3,000 finds in the last three and half years with the number increasing year by year. In 2007 there were 1004 and 830 to date this year. Dot hopes, at least, to equal last year's record by the end of the year. Finds include stone artefacts, pottery shards, coins, medieval seals and other metal objects. Artefacts later than the eighteenth century are

not recorded.

There has been an increase in the finds from the Morecambe area and a number of find-clusters have developed near the M6. Metal detectorists are not permitted on National Trust land which may account for a scarcity of finds in the Lake District. Dot can refer to Finds Advisors for help in identification of an object. She told the story of receiving a photograph of an item that the finder thought might be Anglo Saxon but after investigation and consultation it was identified as a

modern Turkish kebab skewer.

The group enjoyed looking at pictures of recent finds from Cumbria from different peri-

ods. These included a cup and ring marked stone

from Crosby Ravensworth, Roman pottery from Kirby Thore, an Edward 1<sup>st</sup> penny from Appleby and a hoard of 14<sup>th</sup> century coins from Kirby Stephen. Langdale axes, or parts of them are the most frequent finds and recently one was brought to Dot which had been used as a door stop for many years.

Viking finds are uncommon in the area. Two were described,



**Viking finger ring from Sedbergh**

the first being a beautiful heavy gold, untarnished finger ring of the 9-10<sup>th</sup> century found near Sedbergh and the second a Thor's hammer silver pendant found near Irthing. It is hoped that, in the future, both will be displayed at local museums

Objects of great rarity are sometimes found and may test the experts. One such was a coin of Prince Henry, Earl of Northumberland and Huntingdon (1139-52) found at Croglin but where it was minted remains a mystery. Another was a thin piece of shiny gold found by a metal detectorist who took it to a jeweller who thought it was over 300 years old. When the archaeologists first saw it they were puzzled and it took some time to conclude that it was the terminal of a Bronze Age lunula necklace (i.e. one shaped like a crescent moon). They were able to compare the find with complete

necklaces in Edinburgh. It is hoped that, in time, it will be housed in the Tullie. Dot concluded her lively and informative talk with some advice to would be finders. One example was that when an object is photographed it is helpful to have a scale so that the finds Officer can determine its size.

Phyllis Rouston



## Crannogs and Underwater Archaeology



Unfortunately, there's no room for the talk that Thomas Whitbread gave us on Crannogs back in September. But this cut-away illustration from [www.transcotland.com](http://www.transcotland.com) is so good that I couldn't resist including it. You can find Phyl's write-up on our own website of course!

Martin Joyce



## LDNPA Conference - continued from back page

subject of "Microliths to Megaliths" and pondered the curious absence of chambered tombs in Cumbria. She encouraged us to consider the Mesolithic Irish sea as a sort of giant inland pond where we would have observed large communities of people thriving happily on its banks in each of Ireland, Scotland, Wales and Cumbria. As time moved and these people started Neolithic'y things like farming and trading with each other, everybody started building chambered tombs, or dolmens - except for the Cumbrians. Was this simply idleness or the beginning of Cumbria's well-deserved reputation for conservatism? All very curious.

One last thing. Members who heard Kate Sharp's talk on Rock Art last year might like to know that her "England's Rock Art" group at:

<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/era>

has published a quite superb brochure on their work. Copies of this were being distributed free of charge at the conference and alone were worth the price of the entry-ticket. You can view the document on the web-site, which also gives details of how you can get your hands on a printed copy. Recommended, before they all run out!.

Martin Joyce

## Classified Ads

### Lindow Man exhibition

Museum of Manchester,  
University of Manchester,

#### 'Ripples and Reflections: Lindow Man and His Stories'

until 19 April 2009.

Mondays, 11-4;

Tuesday-Saturday, 11-5;

Sunday, 11-4.

FREE. Plus free entry to the  
Museum, of course.

This is only the third time Lindow Man has been allowed out on his own since he was discovered in 1984 and whisked off to the British Museum for examination and conservation. So this is a rare opportunity to see him back in his home territory.

There are two main theories about how he met his violent end - hit on the head which cracked and compressed his skull, or garrotted and hit on the back of the head. Either one of these methods alone would have killed him but as he was found in a bog he could also have drowned!

Theory One is that he was a human sacrifice. Theory Two is that he was mugged.

He was young, about 20 years and had nice, unbroken finger nails, so there's a story there somewhere.

Contributed by Pete Marsh

## Spring Programme

### AGM and Members Evening

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January  
NB: 7pm start for AGM

**Martin Railton**  
Brackenber update

**Anne Walton**  
Herculaneum and Pompeii

### Turnpikes and Milestones of Cumbria

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February

**Colin Smith**  
Milestone Society

### Landscape Survey Buttermere and Loweswater

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March

**Jamie Lund**  
National Trust

### The Bronze Age in Cumbria - Burials Unearthed

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April

**Patricia Shaw**  
North Pennines Archaeology



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